

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09
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TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03
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R 141707Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1744
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, FR, EEC
SUBJECT: EC GIFA-ST. PIERRE-ET-MIQUELON

REF: (A) PARIS 06748; (B) 1976 PARIS 38277;
(C) OTTAWA 0269; (D) STATE 005301 NOTAL

1. FREDERIC GABRIEL-SABATIER, INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN
DEPUTY FROM ST. PIERRE-ET-MIQUELON IN THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY AND VICE PRESIDENT OF FRANCE-ETATS-UNIS, CALLED
AT THE EMBASSY APRIL 7 TO DISCUSS AMONG OTHER THINGS
FISHING RIGHTS AS THEY APPLIED TO HIS CONSTITUENCY. BY
WAY OF INTRODUCTION HE STATED THAT HE HAS CONSIDERABLE
EXPERIENCE WITH LAW-OF-THE-SEA ISSUES AND WAS ONE OF
THREE FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES AT THE
LAST LAW-OF-THE-SEA CONFERENCE.

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2. GABRIEL-SABATIER STATED THAT A 1972 CONVENTION
BETWEEN FRANCE AND CANADA GAVE PRACTICALLY UNRESTRICTED
RIGHTS TO THE PEOPLE OF ST. PIERRE-ET-MIQUELON TO FISH
IN CANADIAN WATERS. THE DEPUTY WAS FEARFUL, HOWEVER,
THAT PRIVILEGES CONFERRED ON HIS CONSTITUENCY BY THIS
TREATY WERE THREATENED BY PROSPECTIVE EC INTERNAL
FISHERIES REGIME WHICH WOULD END UP IN EFFECT EQUATING

ST. PIERRE'S AND MIQUELON'S FISHING RIGHTS WITH THOSE
OF ALL COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES.

3. THE DEPUTY STATED THAT HE WAS VERY MUCH INTERESTED
IN OUTCOME OF US/CANADA GIFA NEGOTIATIONS SINCE THESE
MIGHT RPT MIGHT ASSIST HIM IN HIS SEARCH FOR SAFEGUARDS
WITH WHICH HIS CONSTITUENCY COULD PRESERVE ITS RIGHTS IN
CANADIAN WATERS. WE HAVE EXPLAINED TO GABRIEL-SABATIER
THAT US/CANADA GIFA NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED,
BUT AGREED TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH HIM AGAIN WHEN MORE
INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE. FOR BACKGROUND, WE HAVE
PROVIDED HIM WITH COPY OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
RIDGWAY'S FEBRUARY 3 STATEMENT ON U.S. POSITION ON
INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES POLICY.

4. COMMENT: IN JULY 1976, LEGAL STATUS OF ST. PIERRE
AND MIQUELON WAS CHANGED FROM THAT OF TERRITORY TO
OVERSEAS DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE, AND GOF DECREE 77-169 OF
FEBRUARY 25, 1977, ESTABLISHES 200-MILE FISHERIES JURIS-
DICTION. LIKE FRENCH GUIANA (REF A, PARA 1) TWO ISLANDS
HAVE BECOME SUBJECT TO SAME OBLIGATIONS VIS-A-VIS EC
FISHING REGULATIONS AS IS METROPOLITAN FRANCE, ALTHOUGH
FOR 1977 INTERIM FRENCH/CANADIAN ARRANGEMENTS WILL
APPARENTLY PRESERVE FORMER FISHING PATTERNS PENDING
BOUNDRY SETTLEMENT (REF. C). THUS, GIVEN DIFFICULTIES
EC CURRENTLY FACING IN EFFORT TO ESTABLISH INTERNAL
FISHING REGIME WHICH CAN ACCOMMODATE COMPETING IRISH
AND OVERALL COMMUNITY INTERESTS, WE IMAGINE TIME NOT YET
RIPE EITHER IN BRUSSELS OR PARIS FOR ACTIVE CONSIDERA-
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TION OF MORE EXCEPTIONS TO EC POLICY, WHICH SEEMS TO BE
DIRECTION IN WHICH GABRIEL-SABATIER WILL HEAD. FOR ITS
PART, GOF HAS NOW PUBLICLY UNDERLINED OPPOSITION TO IRISH
MOVE. ON APRIL 12, TRANSPORT MINISTER MARCEL CAVAILLE
MADE STATEMENT IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DESCRIBING NEW IRISH
MEASURES RESTRICTING EC FISHING AS "NOT LEGITIMATE IN
THEIR PRESENT FORM." HE WENT ON TO ASSURE ANGRY BRETON
FISHERMEN THAT GOF WAS "DETERMINED TO ENSURE THEIR FREE
ACCESS TO WATERS PLACED UNDER COMMUNITY JURISDICTION."

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE HAVE REVIEWED REF D., PARA 1,
AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY SANITIZED UPDATE OF THIS INFOR-
MATION WHICH DEPARTMENT FEELS WE MIGHT APPROPRIATELY
MAKE AVAILABLE TO GABRIEL-SABATIER.
HARLAN

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